

4th Annual Canoe Trip Wonderful Fun

This years canoe trip was a huge success. Sunshine, blue skies, and temperatures in the 70's made this year's trip a wonderful experience. Our group had rented fourteen canoes from the park and three additional canoes were brought in to join in the outing. There were no major mishaps this year, (no one went swimming because of the alligators).

The river was peaceful and other than a few fishermen, we had the river to ourselves. A pair of nesting blue herons and turtles were spotted on our leisurely trip down the river.

Upon arriving back at the park, we enjoyed a picnic lunch of chicken, pasta and potato salads, fruit salads, baked beans, ect. that was already set up by the ground crew.

We would like to thank the organizers of this event for such a good time. We enjoyed meeting and talking with new wimmin and will definitely make this an annual event on our calendar.

MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

If anyone is going to the festival this year, and would like to share your experiences with those of us that could not attend, please drop us a line when you return and we will print your stories in the next newsletter....

"PAINTER EXTRAORDINAIRE"

I took advantage of one of our O.A. Supporters services, and called Barbara Mueller for some interior painting. Guess I'd been waiting for the right person to do the job and one of the "family" put an ad in the O.A. at the right time. Keep her in mind if you have some work that needs to be done and you don't or can't do it yourself. Hope you meet her partner, Cody, too. She's a DOG!!

Call Barb at 219-271-6988.....submitted by Jean

CRUISES & MORE TRAVEL, INC.

is offering a gay get together aboard the S/S Norway (Norwegian Cruise Line). This 7-day cruise to St. Maarten, St. John, St. Thomas & the Bahamas' Great Stirrup Cay departs Saturday October 18, 1997 from Miami. Prices range from \$987.50 to \$1,089.50 per person(double occupancy). Includes round trip airfare from Chicago, Cabin & Port Fees, a free cocktail party and more.

For reservations and information call: 1-800-281-9415

LOOK FOR SPECIAL SINGLES OUTING INFORMATION ON PAGE 2

run, jane, run

August 9- - a Festival at St. Mary's College 7am til Noon to include a 5k run, volleyball, double dutch rope, basketball, tot trot, music, food and more

August 23rd & 24th- - beginning at 8a.m.... Women's Slowpitch at the new Bellevue Complex

August 27th - - - beginning at 7a.m. & 1:30p.m.

Women's golf outing at Juday Creek

September 12th at 6:00 p.m., September 13th & 14th at 9a.m.... Women's tennis tournaments at Leeper Park

"FAREWELL TO DREAMS"

Spring 1997, Indianapolis

We are saddened to hear of the closing of the feminist bookstore, Dreams & Swords, which opened in Indy nearly 30 years ago. We hope that the Lesbian community can fill the void that this store closing has brought. It is very important that everyone supports wimmin and/or gay friendly owned businesses as they provide places where we can come together without fear to meet and connect with others.

**WITHOUT WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE IS
MORE STUPID THAN IGNORANCE**

**FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED
PLEASE CALL CLARE AT 219-255-9477**

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for the September newsletter is August 16th. Submissions received after August 16th may not be published in the September newsletter. Mail submissions to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN or give to any staff member. There will be a newsletter meeting August 10, 6:30 p.m. For more information call or e-mail any staff member.....

E-mail address mdills@juno.com

E-mail address suze3@juno.com

Jean..... 219-259-2177

Kaye & Marcia..... 219-271-0338

Suze..... 219-254-8676 (beeper)

community events

August 12-17, near Hart, Michigan....Michigan's 22nd Annual Womyn's Music Festival

This gathering attracts 6000 to 8000 annually. Situated on 650 secluded acres, the festival offers plenty of camping in a village-like setting, creating a self-contained women's town for the week. A women's film festival, over 300 workshops, crafts-women, and three performance stages featuring music (to include punk rock as well as pop, jazz, and folk), dance, comedy and theater are on the schedule.

Artists scheduled to appear include Cris Williamson & Tret Fure, Lunachicks, Holly Near & Ronnie Gilbert, Sexpod, Sawagi Taiko, Reno, Three of Hearts, & more WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, Mich. 49458 phone 616-757-4766, fax 616-757-3414, www.michfest.com

August 15, Third Friday Out, 6:00 P.M. (Ind. time)..... Old Chicago Steak House.....
RSVP Lori/Sherrill 616-684-6913

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE

August 23...8pm-12am (IND.) 9pm-1am(MICH.)

Lavender Rhythm is having a dance at The Pickwick Place, 219 N. 4th Street, Niles, Michigan
Admission is \$7.00 at the door. Wimmin only, smoking room inside, BYOB.

For more info: 616-684-7362

August 24-30 and August 31-Sept. 6
'Camp' Camp...Kear Falls. ME.

The nation's first organized week-long summer experience to celebrate the homosexual lifestyle, designed to be a respite from the homophobic world. The mixture of both individual and planned group activities will include aerobics, canoeing, dancing, hiking, biking, music, painting, sailing, yoga, meditation and more will be lead by trained counselors. Singles and partners are invited. For further information, contact Bill Cole toll free: 1-888-924-8380; via fax at 609-683-1795; via e-mail at billcole@worldnet.att.net or visit the 'Camp' Camp Web site at <http://www.campcamp.com>

SOMETHING NEW!!!!

Sunday, August 24.....Singles Outing at Waco Beach on Lake Michigan. Meet at the Southside Christian Church parking lot on Jackson Road at 3:00pm to carpool. We plan on arriving at the beach at 4:00pm on the right side of the pavilion (look for the

rainbow). Bring your lunch or snack bar available. Any questions??? call Janine at 219-259-5111 or Debbie at 616-687-9535 This is the first of many singles activities being planned. **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:**
Saturday, September 20, Meal/Movie at 4:00pm at the Scottsdale Mall. Meet at the foodcourt to dine and determine what movie to see.

Saturday, October 3, Womyn's weekend in Saugatuck. Spend the day sightseeing in Saugatuck, then enjoy dinner & dancing at the Sir Douglas Dunes. Although these activities are being planned with single womyn in mind, no one is excluded and everyone is welcome

August 31 in DeKalb, Illinois....The Midwest

Womyn's Autumfest.....featuring Cris Williamson, Tret Fure, Alix Dobkin, Suede, Erica Wheeler and others. Gates open up at 11am. Tickets \$26 (advance), \$34 at the gate, womyn over 60 & girls under 16 free. For more info: Athena Productions, 217 S. 2nd Street, #193, DeKalb, Illinois 60115 Call 815-748-5359 or e-mail Autumnfest@aol.com or visit the WEB SITE <http://members.aol.com/autumnfest/index.htm>

September 3rd-9th in Key West, Florida....1997

Women Fest.....offers comedy, street fairs, wine tasting dinners, cocktail parties, infamous wet-t-shirt contest, picnics, scuba trips-reef adventures, sunset cruises, 4th annual film festival, back country kayak tour and much more....Want more info.....1-800-526-3559
SASE: 201 Coppit Road #106A, Key West, Fla. 33040
e mail: jacq5645@aol.com 1998 dates Sept. 9 thru 15

September 6, in Columbus, Ohio....9th Annual Ohio

Womyn's Festival....featuring Cris Williamson w/ Tret Fure, June Millington, Suzanne Westenhoefer, Nuru, and Moxie (hot Jazz band). Workshops include Women in Law, Women's Spirituality, Wholistic Health, Drumming, Sexuality, Body Painting and More. There will also be a market area featuring over 70 vendors. \$20 advance ticket, \$25 at the gate.....more info
Lesbian Business Association, P.O. Box 82086, Columbus, Ohio 43202, phone 614-267-3953

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY.7-9 P.M.

FOR INFO: WRITE TO

LSG, P.O. BOX 1612, MISHAWAKA, IND. 46544

THE SEVEN YEAR ITCH

by Lee Lynch

Last time I moved I said I'd never do it again. Never pack up my hundreds of books, jostle Lover's piano up and down stoops, say goodbye to friends, leave this house -- Never!

That was a little over seven years ago. Maybe there really is something to the seven year itch.. If all goes well, it won't be long before we're outta here.

The process started back in '92. Measure Nine was my American Revolution, my Civil War. It marked and marred me. I learned how important it is for me to live in a nurturing environment.

This inland county has mountains swathed in mists, rainbows, rushing rivers. I love this well-built home and its sequestered acreage. I love the flock of wild turkeys that lumbers full speed up the driveway for corn, the deer who raise their fawns here. I love the trees and the dark pink shooting stars that carpet the land every spring.

It tears me up to turn my back on the rebuilt deck, the new roof, new paint job, the unbreachable fortification against prolific skunks who'd decided this was their paradise too.

I've known such love here, and such strife. I cautiously, slowly set roots down. Who I am today is so much a part of this geography that it's a little scary to face the world without my shell. I feel small and overwhelmed and regretful --

And adventurous! Who said 50 is too old for anything? There's a whole world out there to explore and enjoy!

Another lesbian warned me, back in '92, never to run from, always to run to. Although I was ready to take flight to Portland or New Zealand six years ago, I amazed myself by staying and surviving. I feel stunned and undecided. Yesterday moving was unthinkable, today it's a tantalizing prospect.

We'd have to move to the wild, rough, windy, uncrowded, rainy, foggy, gorgeous Pacific coast. Spare me!

We took off for a weekend to a part of the coast rumored to be thick with our kind, looked at homes, at the verdant seaside vegetation, at the waterways filled with fowl, the elk signs, the crashing waves. The drive home was filled with conjecture and regret, with what-ifs and why-nots.

"What are we going to do?" asked Lover. We'd been popping questions like this at each other all the way home, hoping to hit on a gut certainty.

I answered something non-committal, not sure yet. But we'd just driven through our shabby little town. I burst out. "Let's get the fuck out of here!"

"Ye-ssss!" cried lover.

I love this house, but there's one on the coast that's intriguing. Of course there are thirty-seven bunk beds in it and it reeks of cigarette smoke from the work crew that sleeps there, but it's a short walk from the ocean, the softwood floors would look great stripped of the pasted carpeting, and, as we tell our friends when they bemoan our possible relocation, they'd always be welcome to a bunk bed when they visit.

The seven-year-itch is propelling us to destiny's next stop. I don't want to leave, I can't wait to go. And I'll never say never again.

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Open Arms reserves the right to edit for length and/or content any letters submitted for publication.

The Court of Friends, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546
You will be assigned an ID number. Your letter and ID number will be published in the next issue (depending upon when we receive your information). Those wishing to respond to a published single, may do so by enclosing their reply in a stamped, sealed envelope with the ID number written in pencil on the front of the envelope. Place your reply into another envelope and mail to the Court of Friends. Your reply will then be addressed to the corresponding single and mailed.

OPEN ARMS WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND
CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO COUPLES
CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH:
KAYE & MARCIA'S 10th
BETTY & PHYLLIS'S 25th



Since this is the time of year for vacations, we would like to share this tip with you about altitude sickness if you

.....from lesbian health news

**This is a group of career women united by the love of motorcycling. Ride dates and rain dates will be scheduled. Our goal is to replace the misleading stereotype with a new, respectable image-especially for women. For more info: please call 219-596-8091 Mon.-Fri. 5pm to 8pm
sid@cyberlink-inc.com**



IN THE NEWS



Steve Sack for the Minneapolis Star-Tribune.

CARTOON GALLERY



David Horsey for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

From LC.....

The big coming out episode of "Ellen" turned out to be ABC's most watched show of the entire season. Following is a list of companies which did and did not choose to advertise on the show.

SPONSORS:

Bayer, Burlington Coat Factory, News America Publishing (FOX), Slimfast Foods, Sony Corporation, Time Warner, Unilever (Calvin Klein), Universal Pictures, Viacom International, Volkswagen and Warner-Lambert

NON-SPONSORS:

Chrysler Corporation, General Motors, JCL Penney, Inc., Johnson & Johnson and Wendy's
Olivia Cruises and the Human Rights Campaign both tried to advertise on the show, but were rejected by ABC.

#####

from JUSTICE, INC.....

Ruth Benevente has been removed from Indiana Civil Rights Commission after 2 years of criticism from *Justice, Inc.* This is the direct result of intense lobbying

and pressure on the Governor's Office by *Justice*, Indiana's statewide gay/lesbian civil rights group, and its members. The controversies surrounding Benevente came to light in April 1995. In January 1995, Benevente vocally opposed a Gay Civil Rights Bill supported by *Justice* in the Indiana General Assembly. In addition to this vocal condemnation of the gay community, she passed out literature calling on all Indiana businesses to fire their gay and lesbian employees. The articles she distributed stated that the gay community's goal is to "promote homosexuality" and that gay manifestos include the calling on governments to "repeal...all laws governing the age of sexual consent." *JUSTICE* leader, Wally Paynter, in his 1995 letter to Benevente, stated that it was a sad day for Hoosier Civil rights when 'bigot' and 'prejudice' "are the best words that can be used to describe a civil rights commissioner of this state."

Looking to get one of those plastic Credit Cards???

You might want to consider **WORKING ASSETS**, Visa & Master Card. Every time you make a purchase with your card, they will add 10 cents to the "better world" fund. Last year, alone, more than \$2.5 million was raised for some of the organizations listed below: Habitat for Humanity International, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, Human Rights Campaign Foundation, Greenpeace, Amnesty International, International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission and many others.

For more Information: call 1-800-933-5764

or Write: Working Assets

701 Montgomery Street-Fourth Floor,
San Francisco, California 94111

MICHIANA MOMAZONS

Momazons is a support group for lesbians desiring children through alternative insemination and/or adoptions and with children from marriages. If you are thinking about motherhood, trying to get pregnant or adopt, or are already a lesbian mother, you may be interested in participating in our group. We provide support, information sharing, resource options and great storytelling about our individual experiences as we pursue motherhood. For more Info write to: 1319 Maple St., Niles, Michigan 49120

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Advertising rates are billed as follows:
for the calendar year beginning January 1, and running 12 months thru December 31, a business card sized insert (2" x 3 1/2") is \$10.00. For a limited time insert, the cost is \$1.00 per month.
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Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community. *Open Arms* is discreetly mailed 12 times a year in a security envelope with a P.O. Box return address only. Our mailing list is kept confidential and never given to other publications or special interest groups.

Subscription form: Open Arms-\$10.00/year or \$25.00/3years

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We would be happy to add your service and telephone #
to this column for free; just send the info to P.O. Box 845,
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**ANOTHER THING TO SAVE FOR A RAINY DAY IS A
SWEET DISPOSITION.**



August

1997

Sun

Mon

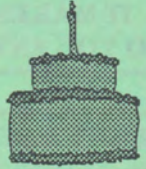
Tue

Wed

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Sat

					1	2
3	4	5 	6	7	8	9
10 Open Arms 6:30p.m. 	11	12 from Sherrie MELISSA S. 	13	14 Happy Birthday  JULIE B.	15	16
17	18	19 SHERRILL F. 	20 PAULA S. DEBE W. 	21  NANCY W.	22	23 MARCIA D. 
24	25	26 "1920" WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY: Women are given vot- ing rights	27	28	29	30
31 FRAN 						

** 12th -17th..... 22nd MWMF

** 23rd... DANCE

** RUN, JANE, RUN /check community page